

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /025 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8384

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 1084

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR BF US

SUBJ: LAND TRACT E.L. 429, ELEUTHERA ISLAND, BAHAMAS

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

QUOTE DEAR SIR,

THE MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED ENQUIRIES FROM MR. HENRY SANDS  
J.P. OF SAVANNAH SOUND ELEUTHERA. THE ENQUIRIES RELATE TO  
A PARCEL OF LAND, TRACT E.L. 429 WHICH WAS ONE OF THE SITES  
PROVIDED UNDER THE 1950 L.R.P.G. AGREEMENT.

MR. SANDS CLAIMS THAT THIS PARTICULAR SITE IS OWNED BY THE  
SAVANNAH SOUND COMMONERS BUT THAT IN 1961 BY VERBAL AGREE-  
MENT BETWEEN THE A.A.F. BASE AND THE COMMONERS OF SAVANNAH  
SOUND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PORTION OF LAND BE MADE AVAIL-  
ABLE TO THE A.A.F. BASE AUTHORITIES AND THAT UPON ABANDONMENT,  
THE LAND WOULD REVERT TO THE COMMONERS. HE FURTHER CLAIMS  
THAT THE PORTION OF LAND IS ENCLOSED BY A FENCE AND IS LOCKED.

THE MINISTRY HAS INVESTIGATED THAT PART OF MR. SANDS CLAIM  
RELATING TO THE STATUS OF TRACT E.L. 429 AS BEING COMMAGE  
AND CONFIRMS THAT THIS TRACT IS IN FACT OWNED BY THE COMMONERS.

TRACT E.L. 429 AMONG OTHERS, WERE RETURNED TO THE BAHAMAS  
GOVERNMENT ON 1ST MAY 1972. (SEE COPIES OF NOTES FROM U.S.  
CONSULATE GENERAL, AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR, HERETO ATTACHED)  
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THESE NOTES, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE 1950 LRPG AGREEMENT DO

NOT AMOUNT TO THE DETERMINATION OF SAID AGREEMENT, WE WOULD HOWEVER WISH TO BE ADVISED WHETHER THE 1950 AGREEMENT AS IT RELATES TO TRACT E.L. 429 HAS BEEN DETERMINED AS THE SAVANNAH SOUND COMMONERS ARE ANXIOUS TO REGAIN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM US OF THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT REGARDING ANY BUILDINGS WHICH MAY BE SITED ON TRACT E.L. 429.

YOURS VERY TRULY,  
G.P. STEWART,  
FOR PERMANENT SECRETARY

NOTE FROM DEPUTY GOVERNOR

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF YOUR NOTE NO. 03 OF THE 17TH FEBRUARY, 1972 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE BAHAMAS LONG RANGE PROVING GROUND DATED JULY 21, 1950, AS AMENDED, AND TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NO LONGER REQUIRES CERTAIN TRACTS ON ELEUTHERA ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE OPERATION OF THE FLIGHT TESTING RANGE AND THEREFORE PROPOSES TO EVACUATE THE FOLLOWING SITES: E.I.-429 (SAVANNAH SOUND), EI-426 AND EI-426 (POWELL POINT), AND EI-412 AND EI-420, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS NOTE (MAPS AND METES AND BOUNDS). ACCORDINGLY, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV (1) OF THE AGREEMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE, IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND MAY CEASE TO PROVIDE FOR THESE SITES FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THAT ARTICLE.

IF THE FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, I HAVE THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S REPLY TO THAT EFFECT AND MY NOTE AND ITS ATTACHMENTS SHALL TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCEDURE ENVISAGED IN ARTICLE IV (1) OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER REFERENCE."

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2. IN REPLY I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND WHO THEREFORE AGREE TO YOUR SUGGESTION THAT YOUR NOTE AND THE ATTACHMENTS TO IT TOGETHER WITH THIS REPLY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CONSTITUTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCEDURE ENVISAGED IN ARTICLE IV (1) OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER REFERENCE.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE, SIR,  
YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,  
L. M. DAVIES  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR UNQUOTE

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND DOD PROVIDING  
ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY GCOB LETTER.  
TAYLOR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, LAND OWNERS, PROPERTY TITLES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
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**TAGS:** MARR, BF, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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